

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for management and manipulation of stored files through electronic mail items comprising:
 - a first receiving portal configured to receive, from a sender, a first electronic mail item addressed to a recipient, wherein the first electronic mail item comprises a file;
 - a mail processor configured to produce a stripped electronic mail item by removing the file from the first electronic mail item and replacing it with a corresponding file handle;
 - a storage device configured to store the file;
 - a mail deliverer configured to send the stripped electronic mail item to the recipient;
 - a second receiving portal configured to receive, from the recipient, a second electronic mail item including a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains the file handle, [[and]] a third field which contains a command specification, and a fourth field which contains a command argument ~~without prompting for the email item;~~
 - a rights verifier configured to determine whether the recipient has privilege to access the stored file corresponding to said file handle;
 - a file handle recognizer configured to locate a file handle pattern within the second electronic mail item; and
 - a command executor configured to execute said command specification with said command argument on the stored file retrieved from said storage device when the recipient is verified to have ~~the access rights to~~ privilege to access the stored file.
2. (Previously presented) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1, wherein the file handle recognizer is configured for locating conforming file handle patterns within the body of the electronic mail item.
3. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 further including a user identification system which extracts information from the electronic mail item including the from address, destination address, the subject, the reply-to, and the body of the electronic mail item, to enable verification of the sender as a known user of the system.

4. (Previously presented) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 3 further including a command parser which recognizes and assembles a command out of the information extracted from the electronic mail item.
5. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to delete the file from said storage device.
6. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to retrieve the file as an email attachment.
7. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward the file to a third party as an email attachment.
8. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward to a third party a newly constructed file handle to the file stored on said storage device.
9. (Previously presented) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to print the file on a fax machine at a specified telephone number.
10. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 further including at least one of an optical character recognition device, automatic speech recognition device, language translation device, and a file format translation device associated with said command executor.
11. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to plain text and email it back to the sender.

12. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to an audio file and to forward the audio file to a telephone at a specified number.

13. (Previously presented) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to print the file at a printer, and to instruct a mailing component to insert the printed file into a postal mail system.

14. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the storage device further includes an automatic deletion timer associated with at least one of the stored files.

15. (Previously presented) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to change a date of auto deletion of the file.

16. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein said file handle is a uniform resource locator.

17. (Original) The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the storage device is chosen from the group consisting of hard drives, optical drives, random access memories, tape drives, RAID arrays, and storage area networks.

18. (Currently amended) A method for electronic mail based management and manipulation of stored files contained within a storage device, comprising the steps of:

- receiving, from a sender, a first electronic email item addressed to a recipient, wherein the first electronic mail item comprises a file;
- producing a stripped electronic mail item by replacing the file with a file handle that corresponds to the file;
- storing the file in a storage device;
- delivering the stripped electronic mail item to the recipient;

receiving, from the recipient, a second electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains the file handle ~~[[and]]~~, a third field which contains a command specification, and a fourth field which contains a command argument ~~without prompting for the email item;~~

locating the file handle within the second electronic mail item;
determining that the recipient has privilege to access the stored file;
retrieving the stored file from said storage device; and
executing the command specification with the command argument on the stored file ~~retrieved from the storage device.~~

19. (Currently amended) A tangible computer readable medium having stored thereon, a ~~plurality of computer-executable instructions stored thereon which, when~~ that, if executed by a processor associated with a system containing stored files within a storage device computing device, cause the computing device processor to perform ~~the steps of a method comprising:~~

receiving, from a sender, a first electronic email item addressed to a recipient, wherein the first electronic mail item comprises a file;

producing a stripped electronic mail item by replacing the file with a file handle that corresponds to the file;

storing the file in a storage device;

delivering the stripped electronic mail item to the recipient;

receiving, from the recipient, a second electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains the file handle and a third field which contains a command specification, without prompting for the email item;

locating the file handle within the second electronic mail item;

determining that the recipient has privilege to access the stored file;

retrieving the stored file from said storage device; and

executing the command specification with the command argument on the stored file ~~retrieved from the storage device.~~

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which computer readable medium is a hard drive.
21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is an optical drive.
22. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is a Random Access Memory.
23. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is a Read Only Memory.
24. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is a tape drive.
25. (Currently Amended) A processor and memory configured to perform the steps of:
receiving, from a sender, a first electronic email item addressed to a recipient, wherein the first electronic mail item comprises a file;
producing a stripped electronic mail item by replacing the file with a file handle that corresponds to the file;
storing the file in a storage device;
delivering the stripped electronic mail item to the recipient;
receiving, from the recipient, a second electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains the file handle and a third field which contains a command specification, and a fourth field which contains a command specification ~~without prompting for the email item~~;
locating the file handle within the second electronic mail item;
determining that the recipient has privilege to access the stored file;
retrieving the stored file from said storage device; and
executing the command specification with the command argument on the stored file retrieved from the storage device.

26. (Original) The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a personal computer.
27. (Original) The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a programmable logic controller.
28. (Original) The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a single board computer.
29. (Original) The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into an array of network servers.
30. (Withdrawn) In a system for managing and manipulating stored files, a receiving portal for use in combination with a rights verifier, a command executor and a storage device containing stored files, said receiving portal comprising at least one of a software program configured to listen to a particular port of a network from which email items are received and a program which runs every time an email is received within a range of email addresses;
wherein said receiving portal is configured to receive, via said network, an electronic mail item from a sender including user identification, a file handle and a command specification, and to invoke said rights verifier and said command executor in response to said electronic mail item.
31. (Withdrawn) A system as recited in claim 30, wherein said storage device contains a file corresponding to said file handle.
32. (Withdrawn) A system as recited in claim 31, wherein said rights verifier is configured to determine whether or not the sender has privilege to access the stored file.
33. (Withdrawn) A system as recited in claim 32, wherein said command executor is configured to execute said command specification on the file retrieved from said storage device.

34. (Withdrawn) A system as recited in claim 33, wherein the receiving portal is configured to employ a file handle recognizer to locate conforming file handle patterns within the body of the electronic mail item.

35. (Withdrawn) A system as recited in claim 33, wherein the receiving portal is configured to identify the command specification within a To: field of the electronic mail item.

36. (Withdrawn) A system as recited in claim 33, wherein the receiving portal is configured to identify the command specification within a Subject: field of the electronic mail item.

37. (Withdrawn) A system as recited in claim 33, wherein the receiving portal is configured to identify command specifications within a To: field and a Subject: field of the electronic mail item.

38. (Currently Amended) A system for management and manipulation of stored files through electronic mail items, comprising:

a processor;

means for receiving, from a sender, a first electronic email item addressed to a recipient, wherein the first electronic mail item comprises a file;

means for producing a stripped electronic mail item by replacing the file with a file handle that corresponds to the file;

means for storing the file in a storage device;

means for delivering the stripped electronic mail item to the recipient;

means for receiving, from the recipient, a second electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains the file handle and a third field which contains a command specification, the third field comprising at least part of the To: field of the second electronic mail item and the subject of the electronic mail item~~without prompting for the email item;~~

means for locating the file handle within the electronic mail item;

means for determining that the recipient has privilege to access the stored file;

means for retrieving the stored file from said storage device; and

means for executing the command specification on the file retrieved from the storage device.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for manipulating remotely stored files attached to a received email, comprising:

receiving, from a server, a first email originated from a sender, wherein the first email comprises a file reference, the file originally being attached to the first email, the file having been stripped from the first email by the server and replaced with the file reference, the file being stored on the server;

sending a second email including a first field that contains a user identification, a second field that contains the file reference, [[and]] a third field that contains a command specification, and a fourth field which contains a command argument; and

receiving a result of the command specification with the command argument operating on the file when the user identification is verified to have the rights to perform the command specification on the file.